

National Louis University Digital Commons@NLU

Faculty Publications

March 2010

Speech and Gesture in Language Acquisition Studies

Gale Stam

National-Louis University

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.nlu.edu/faculty_publications

Part of the [Cognitive Psychology Commons](#), [Developmental Psychology Commons](#), [First and Second Language Acquisition Commons](#), and the [Psycholinguistics and Neurolinguistics Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Stam, Gale, "Speech and Gesture in Language Acquisition Studies" (2010). *Faculty Publications*. 37.
https://digitalcommons.nlu.edu/faculty_publications/37

This Presentation is brought to you for free and open access by Digital Commons@NLU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Faculty Publications by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@NLU. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@nlu.edu.

Gale Stam, Ph.D.
Professor, Department of Psychology
National-Louis University
gstam@nl.edu

Speech and Gesture in Language Acquisition Studies

Spontaneous gestures are movements of the hands and arms that people make when they speak. These gestures can parallel speech and indicate the same entities or they can complement speech and indicate an image that is not expressed in speech (Stam, 2006, 2008, in press). Together speech and gesture form an integrated system (Kendon, 2004; McNeill, 1985, 1992, 2005), and a number of empirical studies (see McCafferty & Stam, 2008, for examples) have shown that looking at gestures along with speech provides an enhanced window onto the mind to investigate language acquisition. In this talk, the presenter will provide an overview of speech and gesture research in L1 and L2 acquisition. She will discuss what gestures are and why looking at them is important for understanding language acquisition. She will present data that illustrates how looking at both speech and gesture provide researchers with a more complete picture of learners' proficiency than looking at speech alone.

Gale Stam, Ph.D.
Professor, Department of Psychology
National-Louis University
gstam@nl.edu

References

- Kendon, A. (2004). *Gesture: Visible action as utterance*. Cambridge, GB: Cambridge University Press.
- McCafferty, S. G. and Stam, G. (Eds.) 2008. *Gesture: Second language acquisition and classroom research*. New York: Routledge
- McNeill, D. (1992). *Hand and mind*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.
- McNeill, D. (1985). So you think gestures are nonverbal? *Psychological Review*, 92, 3, 350-371.
- McNeill, D. (2005). *Gesture and thought*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.
- Stam, G. (2006). Thinking for speaking about motion: L1 and L2 speech and gesture. *IRAL* 44(2), 143-169.
- Stam, G. (2008). What gestures reveal about second language acquisition. In S. McCafferty and G. Stam (Eds.) *Gesture: Second language acquisition and classroom research* (pp. 231-255). New York: Routledge.
- Stam, G. (in press). Can a L2 speaker's patterns of thinking for speaking change? In Z. Han, and T. Cadierno (Eds.), *Linguistic relativity in L2 acquisition: Evidence of L1 thinking for speaking*. Clevedon: Multilingual Matters.